



the point of IMPACT

Week 1 Devotionals...

The Impact of Hope

His daughter was sick, and he was bringing Jesus home to heal her. But on the way he heard the words, “She’s dead. Why bother the teacher?” We all wrestle with hopelessness at times. But Jesus says, “Just believe.” And the choice between not bothering or just believing all comes down to the truth of Easter.

Monday, April 6

Read Take a few minutes to read through the whole story of Jairus’ encounter with Jesus, Mark 5:21-43

Review Whenever a life collides with Jesus Christ an impact is inevitable. And the result is often something you didn’t think possible. It’s often an encounter, a moment, an unplanned intersection that changed the direction of a life. It happened over and over when people met Jesus. And it still happens today. Jesus is eager to meet you wherever you are; but He doesn’t want to leave you there. Things always change at the point of impact.

Respond Spend some time thinking about the circumstances of how you met Jesus. What changed at the point of your impact with Christ? What happened in your life that you didn’t think was possible before you met Jesus? Write your story down and then share it with someone today.

Tuesday, April 7

Read Mark 5:21-24a

Review It was quite unusual to see a prominent religious leader humble himself before Jesus, but being a father outweighs being an elder. Every father of a daughter can understand his sense of desperation, and his sense of exasperation at what happens next (in Mark 5:25-34 we see Jesus being interrupted by a woman who had been ill for 12 years). Jairus had to wonder why a woman who had been ill for 12 years couldn’t wait 1 more day.

Respond Think about a time you were desperate for God to respond to an urgent plea of your own. Where there any interruptions along the way that prevented you from receiving what you desired? What did God want you to learn during this time? If you are in the midst of that time right now, does it seem “too late for Jesus” to respond?

Wednesday, April 8

Read Mark 5:35

Review Not only did Jairus not save his daughter; he wasn’t even with her when she died. It’s at this point of impact that he has to decide which voice he will listen to as all hope seems to be lost. Too often, we choose to listen to the voice that says “Why bother?”

Respond Is there a part of your life (marriage, finances, fitness, being responsible at work, staying sexually pure, getting free of an addiction, seeking reconciliation) where you are tempted to give up hope, to quit trying, to just accept the status quo, to decide it’s too late? Identify where that voice is coming from (the crowd, family, friends or from inside your own mind) by asking God to help you discern His voice in your circumstances.

Thursday, April 9

Read Mark 5:36

Review When we listen to the voice of “Why bother?” we act as if Jesus can have no impact in our lives...unless we listen to another voice, “Just believe.” Unbelief puts circumstances between us and Jesus; belief puts Jesus between us and our circumstances. Jesus knew he could conquer demons, disease, disappointment, and even death, because Jesus knew he could conquer sin (see Romans 4:25).

Respond The impact of a collision with Jesus should be an infusion of hope. Easter is more than a day; it should be a daily reality. It turns “Why bother?” into “Why settle for the way things are?” So, which voice is having the biggest impact on you right now? What can you do to tune out the voice of doubt in your life?

Friday, April 10

Read Mark 5:38-42 from at least 3 different translations.

Review Once you tune out the doubters you must turn in the hope direction. The real problem is not the presence of trials; it is the absence of hope (the God we worship raises the dead, and that gives us leverage over anything we are going through).

Respond Hope may result in deliverance, it may result in renewed strength, and it may result in the courage to endure without getting bitter. But it always results in a refusal to accept status quo as the final word. Where have you been allowing status quo to be the final word in your life? Today is the day to get up and remember that hope impacts everyday of your life. What steps are you going to take today in the hope direction?